

# Scouting About

News from the South African Scout Association.

[www.scouting.org.za](http://www.scouting.org.za)

Spring 2011



**SCOUTS**  
South Africa

Member of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement

0860SCOUTS

## Rev It proposals announced

Exco releases details of new structure for Scouts SA

At a national broadcast to members and friends held on 28 September 2011, the National Exco endorsed proposals to take Scouts SA into the future were announced.

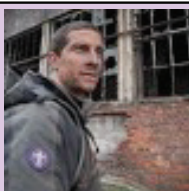
Using the telematic services of Stellenbosch University to get the messages to as many members as wide as possible, the closed system television broadcast fittingly ushered in a new era for Scouting in South Africa.

The Chief Scout of SA Rev Vukile Mehana welcomed all and set the scene by reminding all that the Movement in South Africa had not grown to reflect its full potential. Change was needed to re-fresh and re-energize Scouts SA.

Chief Scout Commissioner Brian February picked up from there and shared with members the build up by the NSC to the launch of Project Rev It in March 2011.

The project was guided by consulting partners 'ydangle' who were tasked to look for solutions, out of the box and after looking wide, look even wider still.

The workstreams and project leaders had tackled the tasks at hand with vigor and gradually built up a new vision of Scouting for SA - this was captured in the form of concept "Big Pictures". Major structural changes were developed to put Scouting back into Groups using a Social Franchise concept! Backing up this new approach was a supporting structure that no longer flowed through Provincial structures, but rather a more decision and operational structure of an empowered Exco reporting via the Chief Scout to an oversight Board of Trustees.



The broadcast showed the uniform proposed by the marketing workstream of young scouters. This had fed off the success that the U.K. Chief Scout Bear Grylls had brought to the movement by simply wearing the scout badge on his arm and the simple uniform in vogue in the U.K.; all of which has contributed to the dramatic growth of U.K. Scouting. We did not make it clear that we would, very importantly, still have our distinctive

Group Scarves nor did we indicate how scouts would show their levels of achievement, as this is still work-in-progress dependent on the Scout Programme.

There is a lot of information on the project, the 28 September broadcast and a short video on the uniform thinking. These and many other information slides are available on the South African Scout Association website under Project Rev It - news and updates. Do take time to visit the website and read these as well as a letter from the Rev It Project Steering Committee. Scouts SA is changing - make sure you are in the know!

National Membership database - A key tool to help deliver Scouting to many more members is the development of a National database for members which can be kept up to date by Groups and members. This will ensure Scouts SA can communicate and share news and updates directly with members. Resource needs can be planned off up to date information and records kept and accessible at a central point. Those without PC access will be able to visit local offices to update records

**Financing the future of Scouts SA will be key to success. Project leader Paddy Milner had this comment:**

"So much of what we try to do is limited by finance or lack thereof. Scouts SA has not focused on this aspect of the Movement in a constructive way in the past. However in today's world there is money available to support a youth Movement with strong values and a tried and tested methodology. But in return we must be able to demonstrate our benefits, show our strengths, and have sound governance in place. Rev It proposals will place Scouts SA in a position to attract funding and work with funders on agreed projects that benefit society and our members. Getting the new structures in place urgently is essential"

**Full details of the Rev It proposals are available on the Scouts SA Project Rev It website.**

**Visit the site to see communications packs, a selection of frequently asked questions copies of the 28 Sept broadcast presentation and much more.**

**DVD's of the broadcast can be loaned from the Provincial offices for those who missed it.**

### Contact Team Rev It:

Email: [revit@scouting.org.za](mailto:revit@scouting.org.za)  
or  
Phone: 0860 SCOUTS (0860 726 887)

be prepared....



It is very important that everyone involved in South African Scouting be fully informed of the **REV IT** proposals. For those who have PC access this information is readily available on the **REV IT** web site and on the [Scouting.org.za](http://Scouting.org.za) website. There is also a DVD with the presentation being circulated.

For those who are not able to access this on electronic media, we ask that all Provincial Headquarters and Scout Shops make this information available as widely as possible via the printed word, and ensure that all Commissioners are able to explain what the proposals entail.

An explanatory letter from the National Rev It Steering Committee is circulated with this edition of Scouting About.

## Spread the word on Rev It changes - be a force for change

### HOW WILL THE CHANGES AFFECT YOU?

This depends on your role - if you are a parent or scouter in a Group, you will find a less bureaucratic structure and processes. You will take more accountability and responsibility. A franchise agreement and operating manual will guide your activities and a coach will provide support.

If you are in a district or provincial role your role would change in line with the new structure. There will be a huge need for coaches, event organisers, programme activities, material creation - in fact a very wide choice as to where you can support the movement in delivering fun and adventure to youth members.

If you are a friend of Scouting you can join as a Fellowship member - i.e active adult member or you join the Scout Alumni if you are a past member and want to repay the movement in support and occasional activity.

If you are a youth member you will see a funky new uniform, fun programs and in the near future a redesign of the Scout Program. For many members events and activities will become more accessible too.

**But you need to get involved help shape and prepare the final details and embrace the changes with urgency.**

**Remember the Competition: Here's a challenge for all Groups - Make a short max 2 minute video showing why youth should join Scouts SA and be part of the Adventure and Fun of scouting. Be creative and who knows where your footage will be shown! All submissions should be sent via link to [Revit@scouting.org.za](mailto:Revit@scouting.org.za) and will become property of SA Scout Association for possible publicity usage.**

**Win a Bear Grylls Survival Kit - entries close 30 October 2011**

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Zandvlei based sea scouts manned a branded stand at the September Cape Town boat show, with adventurous video footage, branded business cards and had many interested visitors to the stand and positive comments on how good to "see Scouting" around and active.

### How will the Franchise Agreement work?

The Franchise agreement will be a document that sets out the obligations and commitments of the Sponsor or Parent Body and Scouters to adhere to Scouts SA Aims, Methods, values and method of delivering Scouting to youth. It will also reflect what the Movement commits to provide in terms of resource and material in return.

The Franchise Agreement will be accompanied by a detailed Operating Manual which will set out exactly how a Group should be operated - a bit like a Group Scouters/Committee members handbook - these will be the commitment expected of each Group sponsoring body.

### What's next?

This completes the design stage and we now move to the implementation stage. The transition is a huge step and much work will need to be done to get material, documentation, processes and new structures in place. The NSC will meet in November to consider feedback and confirm implementation principles around Rev It.

## THE MOMENT WHEN . . . .

How strange is it that all these years later, now that I can feel that I am pretty successful all round – career, family, nice home and good friends that some things stick in the mind as turning points in my life's journey, and the reasons for whatever success I enjoyed?

James, my 11 year old, recently announced that he wanted to join the local Scout Troop where some of his friends are already involved. He has been getting ready passing his basic entrance tests, for the first night in uniform. His Troop Scouter has invited us to James' investiture on Friday – and suddenly it has all come flooding back.

Archie's troop was just great and Archie, our Scoutmaster, himself – a man of his word and forever a role model, was a hero to us all.

We were ceaselessly up to something – camping, hiking, patrol meetings, just messing around at the hall, chilling out with the other scouts, learning to scuba-dive, sail yachts, how to behave at formal functions – as I think the list goes on and on. The moment when it all really began, however, remains – somehow – my most important.

Archie had impressed on me as a recruit that the moment when I would become a Scout was when I stood next to my Patrol Leader in front of the rest of the troop,

with the Troop Banner in front of me on which I was to place my left hand as I raised my right hand in the Scout Sign (three fingers – one for each part of the Scout Promise, just as the Scout badge has three points) to make my Scout Promise for the first and only time.

Archie reminded us that one only made a promise once – at best one renewed that promise often thereafter as a reminder, but a promise, if it is really a promise of worth, only needs to be – and can only be said once.

I remember how I was so nervous and so excited. Mum and Dad were there, and I was in uniform for the first time officially (that is apart from the times I kept trying it on at home beforehand). Archie stood in front of me on the other side of the Troop Banner, and he was looking me straight in the eyes as he always did. I remember to this day those clear, friendly blue eyes of his.

This was my investiture. None of those mass, more-than-one-at-a-time so called but meaningless investitures that seem to have crept in. This was MY moment, Archie and I and Mum and Dad and indeed the whole troop knew that.

"I invite you to repeat your Promise after me – to become a member of the World Wide Brotherhood of Scouts and this Troop". I could hear every syllable that

Archie uttered. I raised my right hand in the Scout Sign and my left hand on the Banner.

"Do you know what your honour is?"

"Do you know the Scout Law?"

"Can I trust you on your honour to do your best to live up to the Scout Promise?"

"On my honour ..." Archie had spent a magic afternoon with me a week before chatting about the Promise I was to make. He wanted me to understand the seriousness and joy of what I was undertaking and the real and deep meaning of the Promise and Law. We had talked a lot about Honour.

"... to help other people at all times." There I had said it.

That was the moment I became a Scout.

I barely heard the cheers from the rest of the troop, and my Patrol Leader's congratulations. I would be a Scout for life.

*These are just some random thoughts – there was no real Archie. But he does exist with a thousand different names and Scouting names in the hearts and minds of millions of boys who over a century have benefited from a dedication to Real Scouting from Great Scoutmasters.*

**Dr Dudley Forde**

## SCOUT GROUP STARTER KITS

The first Starter Kit was handed to Commchurch Scout Group on Friday, 16 September 2011, with the second handed to 1st Vincent Scout Group, East London on the same day. A sponsored kit has been offered to all Eastern Cape school Groups.

The kit contains all the necessary Scout and Cub Trails, Veld Lore books, stationery, rope, a set of Sasol environmental learner books, various administration forms, a South African and Scout flag for the Group, all in two plastic carrier boxes.

Mr Colin Schrouder, the Chairman of the 1st Walmer Scout Group and a Scout parent, handed over the kits on behalf of



**Mr Schrouder pictured handing over the first kit to Lunga Njini, the Group Scouter of Commchurch Scout Group in Bhisho.**

Isipho Sobomi Fund (ISF), which is supported by SPAC.

## CONGRATULATIONS SPRINGBOK SCOUTS



**Bhuti Ngomane – Mpumalanga**

**Robyn Zimmerman – Gauteng**

**Matthew Dickinson – Gauteng**

**Heather Fulton – Gauteng**

**James Clacherty – Gauteng**

**Richard Bredahl – Gauteng**

**Yorke Lowe – Western Cape**

**Gavin Stopford – Western Cape**

**Simon Gradidge – Western Cape**

**Caleb Hillier – Western Cape**

**Stuart Welman – Eastern Cape**

**Jessica von der Meden – KwaZulu Natal**



## 22ND WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE - SWEDEN

On the evening of 6 August 2011 the 22nd World Scout Jamboree – the biggest world scout jamboree ever, came to a spectacular end with a fireworks display that many have not witnessed before. The wet and stormy conditions did not dampen the spirits of most of the participants who stayed right to the end to say their farewells to the many friends that they made during the jamboree.

40061 Scouts from 146 scouting countries lived together in harmony for two weeks at the 22nd World Scout Jamboree under the theme, "Simply Scouting." The Jamboree creates strong impressions and insights that change the lives of many participants and that many bring home to make the world a better place.

The host for the Jamboree, the Guide and Scout Council of Sweden, selected a theme of "Simply Scouting." Participants experienced traditional scouting activities in a 10 day program such as pioneering (building with logs and rope) as well as experiencing the Jamboree with new media such as social networking. The camp program was based on three main concepts: meetings, nature and solidarity.

Up to 1500 of the volunteers had taken more than a month to build the camp while the remainder of the 10,000 volunteers necessary to make the camp work arrived on 25 July, 2011. With the arrival of the participants 27 July, the Jamboree took on the character of a sizeable city with all the facilities in place. However, the best way to describe the event is a massive celebration for two weeks enjoying the fun and the values of Scouting.

Setting the tone for the event was the opening show on 28 July which was a celebration of the gathering and a chance for the scouts of the world to experience the solidarity, friendship and fun that has been the hallmark of the scouting movement for over 100 years.

The South African Contingent of 105 participants and 29 leaders first enjoyed a wonderful tour of Germany before spending three days of Home Hospitality in Denmark, before arriving at the jamboree.

The Scouts lived in a space spread over 580 hectares (1433 acres) where they

had the opportunity to participate in many activities based on three elements: meetings, nature and solidarity. The programme helped scouts to understand the diversity of their world as well as to understand each other.

A global campaign, "Messengers of Peace" was launched at the Jamboree. Scouts have learned of the contributions of Scouts worldwide to global peace and are trained to expand their own local impact. Prince Faisal bin Abdullah ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia discussed the effect of Messengers of Peace during his visit to the World Scout Jamboree 29 July. King Carl XVI Gustav and Queen Silvia of Sweden, both visitors to the Jamboree, have been strong supporters of this campaign.

New friends have been made over the most unlikely cultural gaps, proving that Scouting is a real force for peace and harmony between peoples. Countries having difficulty coming together can learn from their Scouts. A feature of this Jamboree that brought scouts together was 'Camp In Camp', a module allowing the young people to experience a traditional Swedish camp and to camp with different patrols and meet with other Swedish Scouts. This cultural exchange experience made a strong positive impression on all the participating Scouts that built greater understanding of each other's cultures.

Over the course of the Jamboree, more than 20,000 tents were pitched making the Jamboree the fourth biggest city in southern Sweden. In addition, over 1,500,000 meals were prepared and over 2,400,000 hours were volunteered to make the Jamboree happen.

Several thousand Scouts have each committed to provide over 100 hours of community service when they return home, and a total of over 250,000 hours have been committed.

The South African Contingent had a great time and were good ambassadors for the country. They will carry the memories of their experience for a long time and many will have made a lot of new friends who will be friends for life.

Japan will host the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in 2015, start preparing now!



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